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EXAMINER

PILLAI, NAMITHA

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2173

DATE MAILED: 12/15/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

1. The Examiner acknowledges Applicant's submission on 9/14/05, including the cancellation of claims 1-7 and the addition of new claims 8-19. All pending claims have been rejected as being previously disclosed in a prior art.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 8-10, 16 and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being clearly anticipated by International Publication WO 99/59337 (Parish, Craig), herein referred to as Parish.

Referring to claim 8, Parish discloses a method for transmitting media content from an editing system at a source location to a target location (page 3, lines 11-14). Parish discloses displaying the media content including playing audio content at about the same time at both the target and source location (page 5, lines 10-12), wherein the media content is displayed at the base and remote sites simultaneously along with the audio related to it. Parish discloses transmitting spoken audio from a user of the editing system at the source location to a user at the target location (page 7, lines 10-20), where the video conferencing system and its audio components allow the users to speak into a microphone and have it be delivered for the other users from the base and

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remote sites to hear the spoken audio of the source user location. Parish discloses manipulating from the target location a level of the transmitted audio content (page 14, lines 20-24), wherein Parish teaches manipulation of the transmitted audio content, the content level being manipulated in a distinct format at the target location. Parish discloses manipulating from the target location a level of the transmitted spoken audio, thereby to facilitate conversation between the users (page 13, lines 19-24), Parish teaching that transmitted spoken audio is further manipulated by level to be output at the remote site, wherein Parish teaches further manipulation that is done to change the level of the audio spoken.

Referring to claim 9, Parish discloses that transmitting spoken audio is over a video conferencing system (page 5, lines 10-20).

Referring to claim 10, Parish discloses adding at least one of graphics, text, or other information to the transmitted media content (page 18, lines 7-11), wherein annotating the media content teaches adding information to the transmitted media content.

Referring to claim 16, Parish discloses a method for transmitting media content from an editing system at a source location to a target location (page 3, lines 11-14). Parish discloses displaying the media content at about the same time at both the target and source locations (page 16, lines 15-20), wherein the same media content is simultaneously displayed to all the users of the collaboration system. Parish discloses manipulating remotely from the target location the editing system at the source location to control playback of the media content (page 16, lines 15-20), wherein the editing of

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the media content is the remote manipulation at the remote site and viewable at other sites wherein the director can view what is being manipulated at another remote site. Parish discloses providing a video conference system linking the target and source locations (page 4, lines 10-14).

Referring to claim 18, Parish discloses a system including an editing system at a source location for the creation of media content (page 3, lines 1-13), wherein Parish teaches an editing system at a source location for the creation of multimedia content which includes soundtrack representative of audio. Parish discloses that the editing system is adapted to play back the media content and to transmit the media content to a target location (page 3, lines 11-14). Parish discloses a video conference system linking the target and source locations (page 4, lines 10-14). Parish discloses an editing control console at the target location coupled to the editing system (page 16, lines 17-20) and displaying the transmitted media content at the target location (page 5, lines 10-18), wherein the editing control console remotely manipulates the editing system from the target location, to control playback of the media content (page 17, lines 15-23 and page 18, lines 1-3), where Parish discloses an editing user interface that can be manipulated and playback is controlled based on this user interaction with the editing user interface.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

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(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 11-15, 17, 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Parish.

Referring to claims 11 and 15, Parish does not disclose that manipulating the transmitted audio content level includes increasing, decreasing, or muting the audio level. It is notoriously well known to one skilled in the art, at the time of the invention to disclose that manipulating audio levels includes increasing, decreasing, or muting the audio level, wherein these represent volume adjusters found in various operating systems of computer systems to adjust the volume to a desired level by the user. Examiner takes Official Notice of this teaching. It would have been obvious for one skilled in the art, at the time of the invention to teach that manipulating the audio content level includes increasing, decreasing, or muting the audio level. Parish discloses a system that enables users to listen to audio data, further allowing adjustments made to this audio data, as is common in computer systems, it would have been obvious that a volume adjuster is presented to the user to manipulate the volume desired for a user to listen to the audio content. Hence, it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art, at the time of the invention to manipulate the audio content level including increasing, decreasing, or muting the audio level.

Referring to claim 12, Parish discloses a system with an editing system at a source location for the creation of media content including audio (page 3, lines 1-13), wherein Parish teaches an editing system at a source location for the creation of

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multimedia content which includes soundtrack representative of audio. Parish discloses that the editing system adapted to play back the media content and to transmit the media content including the audio content to a target location (page 3, lines 11-14). Parish discloses a video teleconferencing system for transmitting spoken audio from a user at the source location to a user at the target location (page 5, lines 10-18). Parish discloses an editing control console at the target location and coupled to the editing system and to the video teleconferencing system to manipulate from the target location settings related to the media content, wherein the user interface presented displays editing means for editing the media component (page 16, lines 17-20). Parish discloses manipulating from the target location a level of the transmitted spoken audio, thereby to facilitate conversation between the users (page 13, lines 19-24), Parish teaching that transmitted spoken audio is further manipulated by level to be output at the remote site, wherein Parish teaches further manipulation that is done to change the level of the audio spoken, with the transmitted spoken audio, to facilitate conversation between the users. Parish does not explicitly teach that an editing console is used for the manipulation of the transmitted audio content. It is notoriously well known to one skilled in the art, at the time of the invention to disclose that an editing console, represented as a control for adjusting the volume of the audio data found in various operating systems of computer systems to adjust the volume to a desired level by the user. Examiner takes Official Notice of this teaching. It would have been obvious for one skilled in the art, at the time of the invention to teach an editing console for adjusting the transmitted audio levels. Parish discloses a system that enables users to listen to audio data,

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further allowing adjustments made to this audio data, as is common in computer systems and Parish further teaches an user interface that allows for user viewing and manipulation of the data being editing along with the video conference data. It would have been obvious that a volume adjuster is presented to the user to manipulate the volume desired for a user to listen to the audio content, representing the editing console. Hence, it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art, at the time of the invention to present an editing console for manipulating the transmitted audio wherein the volume adjuster presented to the user would serve as this editing console for manipulating the transmitted audio, which is found commonly in various computer systems.

Referring to claim 13, Parish discloses the video teleconferencing system transmitting spoken audio from the target location to the source location (page 5, lines 10-20).

Referring to claim 14, Parish discloses that the editing system adds at least one of graphics, text, or other information to the transmitted media content (page 18, lines 7-11), wherein annotating the media content teaches adding information to the transmitted media content.

Referring to claims 17 and 19, Parish does not explicitly disclose that manipulating remotely includes starting, stopping, fast forwarding, rewinding, and pausing the playback. It is notoriously well known to one skilled in the art, at the time of the invention to disclose that manipulating a video includes starting, stopping, fast forwarding, rewinding, and pausing the playback, wherein viewing of video data involves

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manipulation using these functions. Examiner takes Official Notice of this teaching. It would have been obvious for one skilled in the art, at the time of the invention to teach that that manipulating remotely includes starting, stopping, fast forwarding, rewinding, and pausing the playback. Parish discloses a system that enables users to listen to view video data, wherein including video systems and means for viewing and manipulation of video data related to motion picture or television programs. It would have been obvious that the functions included would be starting, stopping, fast forwarding, rewinding, and pausing the playback, for the manipulation of video. Data involving video information, that is to be viewed and further manipulated especially including motion picture and television programming data would be manipulated by starting, stopping, fast forwarding, rewinding, and pausing the playback. Hence, it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art, at the time of the invention to manipulate the video data by starting, stopping, fast forwarding, rewinding, and pausing the playback.

Response to Arguments

4. Applicant's arguments filed 9/14/05 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Parish clearly teaches that audio data is transmitted between the users of the collaboration and editing systems. Parish also teaches manipulation of the audio data at work stations, wherein this change in the audio data can be interpreted as change in levels of the audio, wherein changing to a different format of audio data is inclusive of changes to the level of the audio data. The arguments disclose the feature remote

audio control, wherein audio control is taught by the present claims but no clear distinction of there being a remote audio control within the disclosed claims.

Parish also teaches that editing work can be carried out by all session participants, Parish clearly teaches further methods for all session participants, including the director to make edits to content, thereby having a control of the data that is played back, wherein giving control of playback data to the director and other session participants. See page 18, lines 4-15, which teaches how session participants can also make, edits and have control over the media content.

Conclusion

5. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

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Responses to this action should be submitted as per the options cited below: The United States Patent and Trademark Office requires most patent related correspondence to be: a) faxed to the Central Fax number (571-273-8300) b) hand carried or delivered to the Customer Service Window (located at the Randolph Building, 401 Dulany Street, Alexandria, VA 22314), c) mailed to the mailing address set forth in 37 CFR 1.1 (e.g., P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450), or d) transmitted to the Office using the Office's Electronic Filing System.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Namitha Pillai whose telephone number is (571) 272-4054. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30 AM - 5:30 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Cabeca can be reached on (571) 272-4048.


All Internet e-mail communications will be made of record in the application file. PTO employees do not engage in Internet communications where there exists a possibility that sensitive information could be identified or exchanged unless the record includes a properly signed express waiver of the confidentiality requirements of 35 U.S.C. 122. This is more clearly set forth in the Interim Internet Usage Policy published in the Official Gazette of the Patent and Trademark on February 25, 1997 at 1195 OG 89.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (571) 272-2100.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Namitha Pillai
Assistant Examiner
Art Unit 2173
December 1, 2005



**RAYMOND J. BAYERL
PRIMARY EXAMINER
ART UNIT 2173**